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April 24, 2003 LB 246, 302, 540

SENATOR RAIKES: I would offer a different view. Our formula is fashioned in a way that we have flexibility so that if we need to make adjustments, like we need to this year, we can do it within the context of the formula. I'm not going to argue that the formula is perfect. I've attempted and failed several times to make a number of changes. But I would tell you that the formula is the consensus, it is our policy consensus at the moment as to how we fund K-12 schools. It's complicated for one reason--trying to be fair involves complication. But I would tell you that it does allow us the tools, the options, to make changes that we need to do in order to address the situations that we encounter, and we have been able to make the changes that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I just want to rise in support of the committee amendments and LB 540. I do want to thank Senator Raikes for all of his work on the issue. I think we've really had an open discussion this year. We started with a bill. We had the hearing. We had the major groups actually come in, in support of the bill. They had some ideas. We took those into consideration. We added those two later provisions of LB 246 and LB 302, which we have been discussing now. And generally I think what we have is a two-year bill and what we're doing is keeping the basic framework in place and, yet, we are allowing the schools to have some additional spending with that increase in the levy from \$1.00 to \$1.04, and we're talking about shifting money from one pocket to the other because we know that that does allow them to increase property taxes. But, I mean, it isn't a mandate that they have to. Again, it allows them to increase if they need to do so. Last year the bill that we introduced and allowed the schools, and we've had some discussion on that, to make up the difference in the state aid that they lost, I believe about half of the schools did seek to